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Office Memorandum · UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : CA - Mr. McConaughy
THRU : CA - D. L. Osborn

DATE: April 15, 1955

FROM : CA - Stephen A. Comiskey

SUBJECT: Chinese Communist Military Preparations Affecting Offshore Islands and Taiwan. No. 2 (4/14/55)

Air:

Recent photographs confirm that Luchiao Airfield (180 miles from Matsu; 230 from Taipei) is operational and there are 40 MIG-15's at the field. Work is proceeding on Nantai (Foochow) Airfield and CINCPAC estimates it will be operational in 2 to 3 months; CHMAAG estimates earlier completion. Work is going on at the new airfield near Swatow (Chenhai). There is no estimated completion date. All of Taiwan will be within MIG-15 intercept radius of the mainland when these three fields are operational -- only Luchiao is now. These forward fields are generally located so they could receive support from major bases at Shanghai-Ningpo, Chuhsien, Nanchang and Canton in the case of necessity.

The GRC would like a USAF squadron stationed permanently on Taiwan and discussions regarding the possible construction of a USAF base near Taichung have been held.

Matsu:

There is evidence of increased CC shipping activity in the Matsu area, but not of such a nature to increase CC lift capability to any appreciable extent. The GRC is attempting to interdict CC shipping through air and naval action. The report that additional CC troops have been moved in opposite Matsu is unconfirmed but is regarded possible to probable. Artillery and other firing exercises are being carried out on the mainland, and artillery fired for the first time on GRC naval units which ventured too close to the mainland. The Communists are busy repairing roads on the Peiling Peninsula. The Matsu garrison remains at some 14,000 regulars, 2000 irregulars.

Kinmen:

There were exchanges of artillery fire between Kinmen and the CC's. CC counter-fire caused minor damage to a 155mm howitzer battery. The Communists continued to carry out construction and training activities. One GRC F-47 was shot down by AAA near Amoy. The Quemoy garrison remains at about 68,000, including about 14,000 Taiwanese "fillers" recently sent there.

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